

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 110 NEW JOBS IN ANSON COUNTY
AND BREAKS GROUND ON NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Elite Foods, a poultry processing company, will locate their new plant in Morven, creating 110 jobs and a \$9 million investment for the state. Easley also joined state and local leaders in a ground-breaking ceremony for a new terminal building as part of an \$11 million renovation of the Anson County Airport.

"Elite Foods' decision to locate in Anson County shows that our superior educational system, infrastructure and top-ranked business climate continue to give us a competitive edge," Easley said. "The expansion of the Anson County Airport will also help attract and retain more businesses and create new opportunities. We will keep working with local and county leaders to create jobs like these for hard working North Carolina families."

The company will process poultry within a new 90,000-square-foot building located off U.S. 52 south of Morven. Positions available include processing and manufacturing jobs with hourly wages of \$8-\$10 an hour. By year three, Elite Foods expects to employ 200 to 250 workers. Partners in the project include: Anson County, the N.C. Rural Center and the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Elite Foods was founded by Bruce Cuddy from Morven. Cuddy founded Elite Genetics in 1995, a \$20 million per year business located in Marshville that produces and sells turkey eggs worldwide.

Elite Foods was awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the state Department of Commerce for \$1 million to go toward installing sewer lines and a pumping station. The Rural Center contributed \$400,000 and Anson County contributed \$100,000 to the project.

Improvements at the Anson County Airport include a new 5,500-foot runway that was dedicated in November 2003. Construction on a new partial parallel taxiway, apron expansion and terminal building will begin this summer. In addition, a Federal Instrument Landing System and an Automated Weather Observing System are being installed.

"The renovation and expansion of the Anson County Airport is a model for the department's commitment to provide a multi-modal transportation infrastructure that allows all of North Carolina to prosper," said Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet. "Community airports across the state play an important role in economic development and contribute substantially to the local tax base and the overall economy. That is why we will continue to invest the resources needed to help these airports thrive."

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